

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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HINCHEY EARMARKS \$2.725 MILLION FOR SOUTHERN TIER PROJECTS

WASHINGTON – U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-22) today announced that \$2.725 million he requested for projects in the Southern Tier has been included in two federal spending bills. The largest of Hinchey's earmarks will provide Broome County with \$1.8 million for the purchase of hybrid buses manufactured by BAE Systems in Johnson City.

"This is a real win-win situation for the area," said Hinchey. "Broome County will be improving its public transportation and environment, while giving new business to one of its largest employers. The remainder of the funds will also make significant improvements to the quality of life in the Southern Tier."

Hinchey, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, successfully requested funding for local projects in the Fiscal Year 2004 Veterans Affairs-Housing and Urban Development-Independent Agencies appropriations bill and the Transportation-Treasury Appropriations bill, two of the thirteen annual spending bills that Congress must pass each year to fund discretionary programs. Both bills were passed by the full Appropriations Committee this week and could be considered on the House floor before the House adjourns for the August recess.

Projects in the VA-HUD-Independent Agencies and Transportation-Treasury Appropriations bills include:

- ❑ **\$1.8 million for Broome County for the purchase of five hybrid buses.**
- ❑ **\$250,000 for Broome County Transit for its Jobs Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program**, which will allow increased transit service in corridors having high concentrations of welfare recipients and low-income populations.
- ❑ **\$250,000 for the Village of Owego riverwalk.** The waterfront pedestrian project will create riverside access in downtown Owego for the business district, connecting the village to the Susquehanna River as a recreation and tourism resource.

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Congressman Maurice Hinchey

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- ❑ **\$200,000 for the Village of Endicott to upgrade its sewage treatment plant** to reduce the flow of nitrogen into the Chesapeake Bay.
- ❑ **\$150,000 for the Village of Owego Fire Department** to replace an outdated training center that will serve as a regional resource for nearly 2,000 volunteer firefighters in the Southern Tier. Federal funds will be used to equip the center.
- ❑ **\$75,000 for the Broome County Jewish Community Center** for renovation and construction of the JCC's early childhood development center.